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MyBookCASE- Option One

Part 1/Part 2

*Books I read as a Child*

1. **The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig**

This book was my favorite of all time! It was really funny because it was the opposite of a classic book and it made it comical and enjoyable. The pig also finds a lot of ways to destroy the wolves’ houses. I could also spend the longest time just looking at the illustrations. The details in the pictures really made the book come alive for me. The ending is a perfect happily-ever-after.

1. **The Giving Tree**

I remember reading this book a lot. It was a really nice story, but it also made me feel a little sad. It was nice to be able to ask my parents questions about why the boy was doing what he was doing. The tree never wanted to stop giving because it made the tree happy to see the boy happy. This book has some nice life lessons and shows the true meaning of love and what one does for someone they love.

1. **Goodnight Moon**

This book takes me way back to early childhood. My parents always used to read this one to me and I definitely had it memorized. They probably used it so much because it was comforting before bed. I always loved reading along and looking at the illustrations. Thinking about this particular book still gives me a warm cozy feeling.

1. **Green Eggs and Ham**

This book was super fun because it is silly and repetitive! Dr. Seuss had many wonderful books, but this was my favorite of his. It made me feel like a better reader when I could read it along with my parents. I also got to eat green eggs after reading it in school, which made it really exciting!

1. **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

One of the many Eric Carle books that I like is The Very Hungry Caterpiller. It was an interest of mine to catch caterpillars outside and I was interested in them becoming butterflies, since we watched it happen in my preschool class. The way the book was set up kept things interesting and fun. It is an all around beautiful book that also incorporates a lesson in nature.

1. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?**

Eric Carle books are always wonderful. His illustrations are so different and teachers and other adults are always pointing it out to children. I enjoyed noticing the uniqueness and catching on to the words. I really enjoyed the different senses that one can explore in such a book.

1. **No, David!**

I absolutely loved this book because my little brother’s name is David. My siblings and I got a kick out of the coincidence and to this day we all still quote the book at my brother. While it is funny, it also shows that kids are not “bad” on purpose and feelings can get hurt easily. It’s one of my family’s favorite books.

1. **Good Night Gorilla**

I liked this book because it’s funny to watch the man at the zoo say good night and have no idea what the gorilla and other animals are up to right behind his back. It was fun to catch on to what was happening and predict what would happen next. It was also a good one for before bed!

1. **Are You My Mother?**

This book was fun to have read to and then eventually pretty easy to read. The bird searches everywhere for his mother, which I think is really interactive and fun to check if they look the same. It also shows similarities (everyone having a mother), and differences (different species.)

1. **The Tale of Peter Rabbit**

I got this book along with my baby blanket that I still have! It was a special book to share with my parents and my Wawa. The rabbit actually shows kids a lot of great life lessons that are good to talk about with adults as you are reading together.

1. **The Rainbow Fish**

I have always enjoyed this book because not only does it teach you to share and use manners, it shows you that it is okay to ask someone older and wiser for advice. I also loved the illustrations! Inner beauty is way more important than what you look like on the outside.

1. **The Little House**

The Little House is such a cute story about a house located in the country that is eventually surrounded by other neighborhoods and basically turns into a city around her. Her old owner comes back for brings her to the country. I liked this book because my house was originally built next to one neighborhood and then the other side was all woods. Then, a new neighborhood was put in and all the woods were gone. It took away the bushes that had honey suckles and black berries on them! It was cool for me to relate to this particular book.

1. **How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

This book shows the meaning of Christmas and how it brings everybody together. Although the Grinch seems bad, his heart starts to grow bigger and bigger and brings everything he stole back to the people in Whoville. This is one of my Mom’s favorite stories so we shared this one a lot.

1. **Stone Soup**

This book was one of my summer reading books for either first or second grade and I was so frustrated because I had such a hard time with reading. I hated this book so much! I ended up getting a tutor and she helped me a lot. After I got help, I was able to read the book and I really enjoyed the activity we got to do to go along with it. It actually has a good moral to the story and is a popular book that I believe will be around forever.

Part 3

*Books that are Important for Children*

After taking a closer look at the books that I have deemed my favorite, it is apparent to me that I enjoyed these books for a few different reasons. First, many of these books made me feel like a good reader and gave me the confidence to want to read again. Then there is the underlying reason that I got to bond with my parents and other important adults while reading or being read to with these books. I think it is very important to share special stories with children and talk about the important messages they are sending. In addition, I have always been a very artistic person. Seeing the beautiful illustrations in these books took me to a whole new world and increased my imagination. It is apparent that children should be exposed to literature that intrigues them, relates to them, and helps them learn while having fun.

Part 5

*English Education*

As time progresses, teachers are worried about following a specific curriculum in order to ensure students are going to provide proficient results for national testing based on standards. The question is whether or not these tests are fully measuring literacy skills. What would really be the best way to prove literacy in schools and how can we meet the needs of the curriculum as well as interests of our students?

Books are an excellent way to escape reality, take one’s mind off of everyday struggles, and have fun. Unfortunately, children today would rather play with electronics than pick up a good book. If children were exposed to literature that they enjoyed and related to, they would definitely want to read more. It is our job to scaffold reading in a way that our students can succeed. Once they feel good about reading and have positive experiences with what they have read, they will want to do it again. Giving them choices about what they read is also very important. It is not a difficult concept: if kids are interested in the topic, it will encourage them to read and reflect on the content.

At a conference in Wisconsin, Gary M. Salvner spoke about young adult literature. He made a good point when sharing J.K. Rowling’s essay contest concerning Harry Potter and how he affected their lives. There was a tremendous amount of responses. These young adults literally had relationships with the characters in these books. They were able to relate to them and just enjoy the exciting plots throughout the novels. Imagine the difference between these essays and an essay on a boring book that these children were told to write in school. The difference is their creativity, interest, and passion. If we were to let our students express themselves, I believe that the results in assessments would be tremendous. As Slavner said, “An obvious lesson is that literature has the capacity to enter our lives, to interact with what we already know and believe, and perhaps even to change us.”

Students will first and foremost need to be taught to read through their interests. It will motivate them to try and to succeed. Testing children for their reading level is a very important part throughout their beginning years, because if they are attempting to read at a level that is too high, they will get discouraged and shut down. I personally struggled with reading when I was younger and I hated reading. My parents got me a tutor and she was able to help me learn the basics and achieve specific goals to build on reading. I know what it is like to be frustrated and give up. Now I see that I did not hate reading, I hated that I could not read well. After I got to explore literature with my tutor and successfully made it through book after book, I enjoyed the content. Becoming fluent in reading allows one to appreciate text and move on to reading content for school and for the rest of one’s life.

While deciding what literature should be included in classrooms, it is vital that there are options for each genre that is being covered. There is not only one book from the classical era, one type of poem, one award winning novel, and so on. So, why would be confine our students to only one instead of giving them a choice to best fits their interests? Differentiated instruction is among the strongest techniques in classrooms today. I see choice of literature as differentiating for students in the classroom to best help them learn and progress.

Using the right literature make the learning process fun and students will begin to develop a sense of what they like or want to try. Reading or discussing with peers and/or the adult in the classroom will form connections through the same interest, get other opinions, and answer questions that may appear. By experiencing different genres and follow-ups, students will find what they truly enjoy and literacy results will be more impressive than ever.